

# The ANSGAR LUTHERAN

## BEATEN AND BLUDGEONED

By A. M. Chirgwin

One of us were sitting on the side of a private patio in the city of San Salvador in Central America. One was a young Salvadorean: part Spanish, part Indian, with jet black hair, flashing eyes, and a quite irresistible smile. The second was the Bible Society representative in El Salvador, who also acted as my interpreter. The third was myself. The first, Escamilla, who is now 62 years of age, told me that as a young man he and his boon companions had the reputation of being the worst drunkards in the town.

so low that his colportage work ceased and he found himself without a job. He turned to other work, but though he was soon making a good living he was not content. He wanted to sell Bibles and to tell people about the gospel. That was his one passion. After a while he conceived the idea of becoming a colporteur on his own, and he suggested to the Bible Society representative that he should be an unofficial colporteur, selling Scriptures at the fixed price, but buying them at a discount. Under this arrangement he has steadily increased his sales,

province in the State, in nearly every town, and a great host of villages and hamlets. One of the earliest villages he visited was near the place where he had spent his roistering young manhood. He began speaking and opening his books, and had hardly got going when the crowd turned on him. He was struck on the face and head and knocked down. He got up, wiped away the blood and started speaking again. But he was attacked once more and driven away bleeding and stunned. The next day he was back again. Once more he was manhandled and forced to retire. Nothing daunted, he turned up the third day. This time he climbed a tree and, making a branch his pulpit, he preached to the crowd below. He

### A True Story About A Drunkard That You Must Read

My companion was a keen reader and had amongst his books a Bible, which Escamilla borrowed and began to read. A few days afterwards he came running to his friend saying, "Look, your book says that no drunkard can please God. I am going to stop drinking." And stop he did. In a few months he was a new man, giving himself industriously to his job as a corn and seed seller. He was not content with that. He wanted to sell copies of the Bible that had made all the difference to him, and before long he began to work as a Bible Society colporteur. That was 30 years ago, and he has been selling Scriptures ever since. During a period of depression some years ago, his sales fell

and last year sold as many as 35,000, or an average of nearly a hundred a day.

But for him, as for every true colporteur, selling Scriptures is a means to an end; and I had not been talking with him for five minutes before I found that he was far more interested in winning people than in selling books. He could tell me how many converts he had won in a particular town 20 years ago, but he had quite forgotten how many Scriptures he had sold. I asked him a few questions and then let him talk. He spoke in Spanish, and the Bible Society representative interpreted. I sat back and listened to a story I shall not soon forget.

He had been, he said, in every

told the story in graphic sentences, then, turning to me with his flashing smile, he added: "There is a community of 62 converts in that town today." From there he moved on to another town where again he was manhandled and beaten up. He did not bemoan his fate; instead, he turned to me and said: "There are 25 believers in that place now." In another town he was set upon by a gang of roughs, stirred up by a notoriously depraved priest. The mob beat him, knocked him down, stamped on him, then fastened him to a great thorn tree so that the thorns would slowly pierce his body, and they left him there to die. When the crowd had melted away,

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# News and Notes

## FORWARD WITH CHRIST

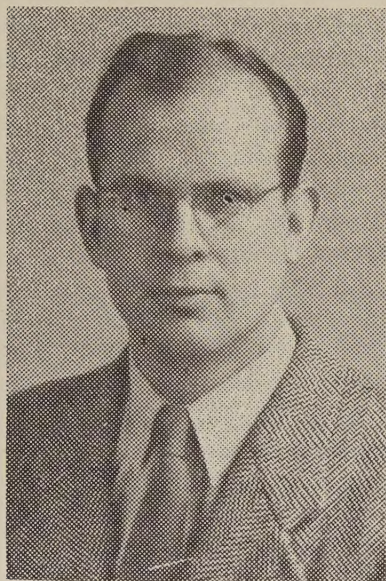
### Second Report, May 25

Number congregations reported ..... 74

The above churches reporting are only partially complete.

Amount committed ..... \$101,470.31

Since many of the churches are using a secret pledge plan we will not be able to give a complete figure committed, as was originally planned, until a later date.



Pastor Lloyd Neve, who in 1948 began his work as a missionary in Japan, has spent most of his present furlough studying Old Testament at Union Seminary, N. Y., and has now been granted an A. M. degree from this institution. The subject of his thesis was "The Spirit of God in the Exilic and Early Post-Exilic Prophets." May 18-July 25 Pastor and Mrs. Neve will visit a number of our congregations. They will return to Japan in the last part of August.

It is hoped, that at a number of places neighbor congregations, also from other church bodies, may be invited to hear Pastor Neve's messages and see the lantern slides he will present.

Pastor Neve's address is now % Rev. A. V. Neve, Sleepy Eye, Minn.

### Welcome to Strangers

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of The Ansgar Lutheran, and I want to tell you that I enjoy most of your editorials. Recent events in my life have made me ask the question if the Lutherans are stiff necked? It seems to me that some churches are not as friendly as they should be. I find it easy to speak to the people that I know, but I must confess that we do not always speak to strangers in our church. This has made me think and I have resolved to try to welcome every stranger if possible.

Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a letter. We believe that the writer is right in his resolution.

### Wisconsin W.M.S.

The Southern W.M.S. circuit met at St. John's church at Oregon, Wis., on April 24. Devotions were conducted by Mrs. Hubert Schroeder, Mrs. Orrill Ferguson read a greeting from Dr. J. M. T. Winther. Mrs. Aage Jensen read a greeting from the W.M.S. District president.

Pastor R. O. Berthelsen was guest speaker. He addressed the group on world missions. He emphasized the motives that have characterized and do characterize the missionary efforts. The philanthropic, the eschatological motives are prominent. The loyalty motive sends us out in obedience to Christ's command. He stressed that the church must do mission work in or-

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### LOS ANGELES WEATHER For the Benefit of Delegates

For the benefit of delegates and visitors to Synod who are not acquainted with Los Angeles weather during June, please note the following: June is NOT a warm, sunny month in Los Angeles. According to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the average temperature during the month of June is a high of 76 and a low of 60. Furthermore, the possibility of a shine during this month is only 69 per cent. Los Angeles enjoys high fog a big percentage of the time; however you can be sure it won't rain, as the average rainfall for this month is .15 inches. June is ideal suit weather, delegates and visitors should bring a lightweight topcoat for evenings and, just in case it should be what you had better be prepared.

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der to live. But above all it is God's will that all men should get to know Christ. We are the instruments in his hand.

The meeting adjourned for supper at 5:30, and the evening meeting was held about the supper tables. At that time Pastor Berthelsen spoke on the book of Mark 8:31.

Castro Valley, Calif., Pastor Andrew Jensen. Faith Lutheran Church has Sunday School enrollment of 518 children.

Los Angeles, Calif., Olivet Lutheran Church, J. M. Girtz, pastor, reports that the recently relocated church had 1290 in attendance at three Easter services.

From a Minnesota reader: "I received much blessing through The Ansgar Lutheran."

Norwalk, Calif., Pastor Wm. Hansen. More than 1200 attended the church Easter Sunday. Trinity Lutheran Church now has a baptized membership of 1205 members. It is a home mission church started just three years ago.

(Continued on page 9)

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Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. Homer Larsen, 904 Bluff St., Cedar Falls, Ia. A special club rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and \$2.00 a year for the congregation has The Ansgar Lutheran in every home—Church Paper in Every Home Plan. Subscriptions, remittances, change of address, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, 101 N. 1st St., Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Entered as second-class matter, December 14, 1924, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor  
321 E. 8th Street  
Spencer, Iowa



# Editorials and Comments

## OUR YOUTH WORK

may seem preposterous for the editor to write about youth work. He is not so young himself, and some people think that if you are not young you do not know anything about youth. A man who helps his wife getting the babies to sleep at night, and who carries them about in his arms, knows much more about youth work, than if he has reached the age of 50! A man of fifty is often thought to be too old to be a youth worker. No doubt this is because when a man of fifty he begins to show less inclination to play baseball or some other strenuous game. However, we venture to say we know things about youth work even though we are more than 50.

One reason is the fact that there is a suggestion that we venture out with a full time director. Now let it be said at the outset that we have nothing against such an office. If it can help us to do better youth work, let us have it. We believe that the present director is doing a good job. Not long ago we got eight kits from the youth office which were sent to the parents of the eight children, which were completed recently. We also like to get the youth programs sent to us. But it may also be well to get more information about such a full time office, before it is created.

There is one point we wish to raise about the tendency in youth work. It must be more than a program. It must be a life. We believe that the youth work must be a congregational work, and we also believe that the youth work is best when it is a fellowship of the young Christians within the congregation. It is of very little importance whether the young people support this or that cause. Only five or six young people in each district will have the slightest idea of what the causes are.

Perhaps we should explain this a little more. Suppose we give a scholarship to a student at Dana. We think we should do that, and it is well both for the student as well as for the Luther Leaguers. But the fact is that this gift will not really mean very much to the local Luther League. We know by this that it would take a special gift or talent for anyone to bring the importance of this home to the young people, so that they got to see that they are really serving. Even the support of a foreign missionary does not mean too much to the individual leaguer. Unless he knows the missionary, which he seldom does, it will not bring much attention from him. Perhaps we have failed to bring the message home, but we simply state the facts. His support of things outside home means too little to him.

We believe that young people will be interested in the things first. They must learn to love their church by living at home. This is natural for boys and girls from 17. After that they often leave for school and the girl gets married. The ELC will soon have a national convention at San Francisco. If 5000 young people are brought to such a convention, it certainly is of some value for these youngsters to make such a trip. But even such trips are of less value than they have been, for the young people take their rides now by auto with their parents.

Again we believe that the battle must be won at home. "at home" means that we must win the home of the leaguer. If we are able to help the parents, then they will understand what is good for the leaguer.

We want the young people learn to discuss many problems in the home and school. We have found that our best programs are the discussions with the people about Christian life as it is related to the life which these young people constantly meet. Let them talk about their faith and convictions in discussions about things they understand. When we look back

on the past few months with our young people, we think of some great programs. They were not great because of the large attendance, but they became great because of the eager participation on the part of the leaguers. Perhaps it started with a simple motion, and the discussion became spirited because something was injected into the discussion that made it take on a deeper meaning.

So the programs the leaguers make themselves under good leadership seem to be the best. They go over better than if we try to follow a suggested program.

We also believe that fellowship with other leaguers is very helpful. It is good for them to know that other leaguers are interested. We believe that these programs need much study, because if they are not outstanding, the kids will not go next time. The play and the fun may not be as important as we sometimes think. At least it must not get to seem the important thing, for then the leaguer will be disappointed. When he goes to a league meeting, the greatest thing in the world must be kept great. We sometimes read that the rallies start with a mixer. We admit and we know that you can easily take young people from the serious to the more light things. However, we are sure that we may easily disappoint them, if we get too much play. For after all, the games we play are rather tame. Recreation must only be used as a stretching of the legs in between the more serious things. We may sometimes play too many games because too little thought was given to planning the program.

We hope many of the young people will attend the Bible Camps this summer. But we also hope that the instructors will not just hand them some Biblical knowledge without relating it to the life the young people live. The present interest in religion in the United States is very evident among the young people. They are wistful, they are searching. The Christian faith must be related to their needs. They may be rather difficult in some respects. But they all want to be looked upon as men and women who are striving upward. They resent being just entertained. They may not know what they really need and what they really want, but there is something that will grip them, if we find the answer.

At a meeting at Detroit of the Volunteers of America Col. Robert E. Nolte had something interesting to say:

Col. Nolte urged the de-emphasizing of recreation and the placing of a new emphasis on "exploiting the strength of family life."

"By this I mean helping parents to help their children instead of outsiders trying to help the children directly," he said. "The age of easy answers is past. We need the blending of all the experiences and understandings of life into a pattern that will meet the needs of the young people."

Col. Nolte also made five other charges against society in its handling of youth:

1. Character building is not inherent in the "ball and bat" but in the recovery of the individual, for which there is not pat technique or formula.

2. There is too much "busy work" devoted to "keeping the kids off the streets—and this is just glorified baby-sitting and impractical because "you can't keep them all busy all the time."

3. In the quest for security, another very important childhood need, adventure, has been so badly stunted that normal children seek adventure by negative means.

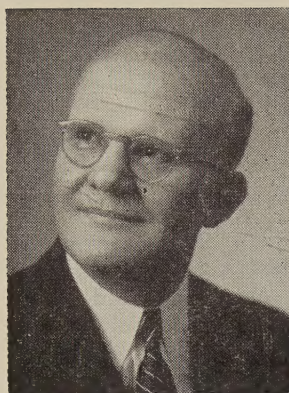
4. The principle of doing things for people and the governmental trend toward paternalism have taken away personal initiative and conviction.

5. Blaming parents has become an easy way to shift the responsibility while, actually, all society is at fault.

These five points may well be studied by all pastors and youth workers.



## SYNODICAL PRESIDENT REPORTS



President Hans C. Jersild, L.L.D.

Dr. Hans C. Jersild, president of the U. E. L. C. has sent us his annual report, which will appear in the pre-convention report sent to pastors and delegates a few weeks before the synod meets in Lynwood, Calif.

Dr. Jersild makes mention of the increase in baptized membership from 54,011 in 1953 to 56,908 in 1954. The growth and vitality in the

synod may be noted in the constant building of new churches. Dedications the past year are: St. Mark's Lutheran, Storm Lake, Iowa; Trinity Lutheran, Kankakee, Ill.; Valley Lutheran, N. Hollywood, Calif.; Olivet Lutheran, Los Angeles, Calif.; St. Stephan Lutheran, Camp Douglas, Wis.; Trinity Lutheran, Red Deer, Alberta, Can. Parsonages have been built in Pass Lake, Ont.; Red Deer, Alberta, and Los Angeles, Calif.

### NEW MEN TO BE ORDAINED

Five candidates from Trinity Seminary will be ordained at the convention. Three men will be ordained to the military chaplaincy: John T. Beck, Robert G. Nelson and Robert D. Thoms. Two men will be ordained to serve as parish pastors: Anton C. Kirkegaard, Jr., to Hamlin, Iowa, and Lloyd Lorensen to Moorhead, Iowa. A sixth graduate, Erwin W. Dohmeier will be ordained by the American Lutheran Church to serve in that church.

### OUR SYNOD GETTING OF AGE

Two churches will celebrate the 75th anniversary this year, St. Peter's Lutheran, North Luck, Wis., and Bethlehem Lutheran, Royal, Iowa, Exira Lutheran, Exira, Iowa, and St. Peter's Lutheran, Salmonhurst, N.B. Canada celebrate their 50th anniversary.

### IN MEMORIAM

Four pastors have died during the past year. Pastors C. C. Mengers, Henry Iversen, L. Pedersen and Alfred Thompson.

Six pastors' wives have been summoned: Mrs. Hans Nielsen, Mrs. Jensen Gyde, Mrs. E. S. Rosenberg, Mrs. M. C. Engholm, Mrs. N. Bentsen, Mrs. A. P. Hansen. Two noted lay leaders have been called: Mr. T. C. Hansen and Mr. M. A. Sweet.

The synodical president urges continued efforts in home and foreign missions. It is hoped that the missionaries to Santal India, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jorgensen, will soon get a visa.

### DANA COLLEGE AND TRINITY SEMINARY

North Central Accreditation for Dana was not obtained this year. It is hoped that accreditation may be granted next year. The president urges continued support of these institutions. Young men are urged to study at their own seminary. Dr. C. B. Larsen has been forced to continue teaching due to failing eyesight.

The school received \$83,300.00 the past year from the synod plus interest from the endowment fund and additional support from the college foundation. It is proposed that another \$2,000 be added to the school fund the coming year, and some \$8,000 to the fund in 1956-57.

### THE SYNOD FINANCES

The synodical members gave a total of \$1,870,359.00 the past year. This sum is divided into such items as current expenses in the congregations, the synodical budget, Foreign Mission Work and Lutheran World Action. We have 36,479 confirmed members. It means that each member gave an average of \$51.30 the past year to the Lord's work in the church.

We had a synodical budget of \$256,668.00 for the year. We were only \$4,294.84 short of that amount. The pension fund suffered most, in that we are \$7,268.47 short of our pension fund goal.

Your editor thinks it is unfortunate that we let the congregations decide what they are to give to in our synodical budget. That means that we pay more than the budget to some causes and less to others.

### THE AUXILIARIES

The National Luther League is commended for energetic work. The president does not express himself on the recent proposal by the League for a full time president. The Women's Missionary Society is given much praise for its work. The Church Men of the U.E.L.C. are given a gentle reminder that they could do better.

These are simply a few notes gleaned from the text of the president's report. The president offers no special recommendations. You get the impression that the year in the church has been a steady year. It is also natural that he does not offer any special recommendations now. Our synodical administration will be very busy from now on getting our house in complete order before the merger. Suppose the merger should become a reality Jan. 1, 1959, it would mean that we only have three independent synodical conventions left. As a matter of fact when we have voted in 1956 to merge, there will not be much independence left. All synodical action must of necessity be aimed at bringing the synod into the new church as soon as the final vote is cast at that time. That is all one reason your editor has supported the Forward with Christ appeal. He looks upon it as a natural in order to put our house in order before the wedding.



## CHURCH NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

### Archbishop Brilioth Wonders Sweden Is Christian

Whether Sweden today can be considered a Christian country is a question brought up by no less an authority than Archbishop Yngve Brilioth of the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden, the Church News from the Northern Countries reported.

Speaking on the future of the church at a diocesan meeting in Sandviken, the archbishop drew attention to a number of "disturbing symptoms of the recent development" of life in Sweden, and charged that "in social and in politics spiritual problems are very often treated as if they were oddly irrelevant."

He added that the huge parishes in the rapidly growing city suburbs, some of which are supposed to serve up to 100,000 people, "promise to become new heathen land within Swedish borders."

However, the archbishop went on, demands for a reasonable division in new parishes have met with strong opposition. Instead of an increase in the number of clergymen corresponding to the increase in population, an appreciable reduction in the number of pastorates is proposed, thus making effective spiritual guidance still harder to perform."

According to the Church News, Archbishop Brilioth also expressed the view that the modern State with all its resources and its bureaucracy would "smother the freedom without which a Church cannot live and perform its tasks."

At the same time he indicated "a few bright points," including the fact that "active opposition to Christianity is no longer as strong as it was some decades ago."

The Church News added that "although the archbishop was convinced that a complete separation of Church and State would not by any means imply the death of the Church, he nevertheless expressed hope that it might be possible to avoid the painful loss of strength that must be caused by such a breach."

The Church of Sweden is a State church and regulated by the Swedish Parliament.

### Australian Lutherans Reach Stalemate in Union Talks

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia have reached a stalemate in their negotiations toward merger.

Doctrinal agreement was reached by the group two years ago, but conver-

sations have bogged down because of conflicting views on practical issues, particularly the question of the UELCA's membership in the Lutheran World Federation. The ELCA is affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States.

A leader of the UELCA said here that "in recent meetings no progress has been made on the question of overseas church fellowship."

"No merger will be possible until this question has been settled," he added.

### Ireland's First Lutheran Pastor Installed

DUBLIN—Ireland's first Lutheran pastor was installed in a four-language ceremony at St. Finian's church here. Three Lutheran World Federation leaders officiated, assisted by Dr. Arthur William Barton, (Anglican) Archbishop of Dublin.

The pastor is the Rev. H. D. Mittorp of Westphalia, Germany.

Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, L. W. F. president, preached the sermon. He said that a number of Lutherans from Germany and the Scandinavian and Baltic countries had settled in Dublin since the war, creating the need for a pastor here.

Other participants in the ceremony were Dr. David L. Ostergren, L. W. F. secretary in Great Britain, who conducted the Swedish portion of the service, and Dr. Jaak Taul, secretary of the National Lutheran Council of Great Britain, who spoke in the Estonian language.

### International Kierkegaard-Conference in Denmark.

The Danish Søren Kierkegaard Society has planned an international Kierkegaard conference in Copenhagen for August 10-17 to commemorate his death 100 years ago. It is expected that about 50 scholars from many countries will attend. The main subject will be Kierkegaard's thought and its significance in past and present.

### Survey Shows 90% of U.S. Chinese Non-Christians

San Francisco—Chinese Christian churches in the United States have shown rapid growth in recent years but 90 per cent of the 117,000 Chinese in this country still are non-Christians, it was reported here at the first nationwide conference of Chinese churches in America.

Dr. Peter Y. F. Shih, pastor of the Chinese Christian church of New England in Boston, said a survey upon

which the report was based had disclosed "serious problems" in addition to the high percentage of non-Christians. Among these he listed the existence of a "great language barrier," lack of proficiency in Chinese on the part of many pastors of Chinese Christian congregations, and the fact that some of the ministers—although Chinese—had never been in China while others are not even Chinese.

Dr. Shih told the conference that among the most important things it could do would be to aid in preserving the cultural heritage of the Chinese Christians and in providing their pastors with more proficiency in the Chinese language.

More than 100 Chinese Christian clergymen and denominational executives from the U.S., Canada and Hawaii attended the conference along with about an equal number of laymen.

Theme of the conference was "Chinese Churches Today and Tomorrow." It was sponsored jointly by the National Council of Churches' departments of racial and cultural relations and of the urban church.

### Clergymen, Architects, and Artists Discuss Churches

About 30 clergymen, architects, and artists were recently assembled outside Oslo to discuss guiding principles in church architecture. The erection of a number of new churches in Oslo has been planned, but it became evident at the conference that there is a good deal of doubt and confusion as to architectural design. Among the problems discussed was the special character of the Lutheran church interior. The architects were especially sceptical about the wishes put forward by the clergy for "combined churches"—these should consist of a relatively small room, the church proper, which may on special occasions be combined with an assembly room. In latter years a number of these "combined churches" have been built in Norway, but none of them are architecturally satisfactory. The clergymen present at the discussion nevertheless felt that this design offers so many practical advantages that the attempt to reach a better solution should not be abandoned.

### Find Claims of Lay Resurgence Over-Optimistic

Buck Hill Falls, Pa.—Claims of a great resurgence of the lay movement are "a little too optimistic," according to a workshop group at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches.

"There is no doubt a tremendous upsurge in interest by laymen, and indeed a hunger for spiritual reality,"



the group said, "But there is not yet much real evidence of a marked increase on the part of laymen in general in either spiritual insight or discernment or in consecrated devotion to the Christian cause.

"Men are eagerly awaiting guidance in the application of Christian principles to their everyday problems."

The World Council's Department of the Laity was urged to study ways in which the Christian position can find expression by the laity in political action in their countries and in the United Nations.

### Protestants Told Alcoholism Largest Mental Health Problem

New York—Dr. Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist, said here the five million alcoholics in the U.S. constitute the nation's single largest mental health problem.

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however, a stranger came by and set him free. "There are 15 believers in that place today," he added.

On another occasion, when the mob had beaten him so badly that he thought his end had come, a man suddenly rushed into the crowd shouting, "This man has done you no harm. Even when you were beating him he did not attempt to strike back. He is a good man," and—drawing his machete or great cutting knife—"I forbid anyone to strike him again." In another part of the Republic a rabble one day heaped up a great ring of straw around him and set it alight. He continued preaching, however, and managed, by stamping on the burning straw when the fire came too near, to escape with nothing worse than some holes burnt in his clothes. As he said this he turned to me and said: "There are now two families in that village who believe." In yet another place he was stoned, one large stone tearing a page out of his open Bible, a page that found its way into a woman's hands. "There is one family of believers in that village today." In still another place, while he was speaking and selling Bibles, he was set upon in a brutal and determined manner. First of all he was beaten with sticks till he could hardly stand; then he was made to stand between four men, two in front and two be-

And both the Protestant churches and psychiatry must be more deeply concerned with this problem, he told 50 clergymen and laymen at the annual meeting of the Department of Pastoral Services, National Council of Churches.

"Nothing looms as large on the horizon," said Dr. Menninger, director of the Menninger School of Psychiatry, Topeka, Kans. "Every day we see horrifying examples of men and women who drink up every penny they own and make serious critical errors in judgment that affect you and me. It is a problem which is taking a tremendous mental, social and physical toll."

While psychiatrists can help some alcoholics, he said, "it is unrealistic for us to think that all who need help will get analyzed." He warned against

hind, each with a knife pressing into his flesh, so that whichever way he leaned in his weakness and exhaustion a knife would pierce his lungs or heart or back. Something momentarily distracted the attention of the men, and he slipped between their knives and got away. "There is a church of 18 converts in that town now," he added. In a large village while he was speaking, a man on horseback rode full tilt at him and knocked him down. Only last year he was so badly beaten up by a mob that he had to receive medical treatment and rest for more than three months. Three times he has been imprisoned and suffered sentences. After every story, without exception, there would be the smile and the refrain, "There are two or ten or twenty believers in that place now." As I sat and listened, I wondered how many blows he had received for every convert won.

While he talked on in his pleasant Spanish tongue, I could not help thinking of another man with a dark, flashing eye, who once said: "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep. In journeyings often...in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen...in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst."

When Escamilla began his work there were no buses or trains; he had to go on foot. He would start

the tendency to regard psychiatry a cure-all.

Dr. Menninger praised the rehabilitation program of Alcoholics Anonymous but said it will not be able to reach all who need help.

"The churches and psychiatry must carry the responsibility for working out the best method of dealing with the problem," he said.

Mrs. Marty Mann, executive director of the National Committee on Alcoholism, described the AA program as "basically a spiritual one which recognizes that it takes the power of God to help the alcoholics."

She reported that when AA was founded in 1935, alcoholism was generally regarded as a hopeless problem. The 150,000 active AA members have helped change the lives of an estimated 2,000,000 people around the world, she said.

out on a trek of some weeks with a shoulder-bag containing 80 or 100 lbs. of books, and he would come home only when the bag was empty. Today he travels by bus, and to a few places by train. On arriving at his destination he goes first of all from house to house; it is only at a later stage, or on a second visit, that he goes into the market where the crowds are. He likes to begin where there is opportunity for personal talk and Christian witness. He begins by bringing out a Bible and explaining that it is the Holy Book which tells how God created the world, how He loved men, and how when they turned from Him, He sent His Son to win them back to Him. If it is a Roman Catholic he tells them that the Bible contains the story of the Virgin Mary, of the birth of Jesus, and of His death and resurrection. Then he opens the Bible and reads from both the Old and the New Testaments. "People always listen," he said, "to the story of Joseph and his brethren, and the parable of the Prodigal Son."

"There are," he added, "20 towns in El Salvador, and I have sold Scriptures in all but ten of them." He hopes to get to those ten this year. One of them is a fanatic's centre, but he plans to go none the less. It is through unsung heroes like Jose Escamilla that the Kingdom grows.

Condensed from the Christian World



# Our Foreign Mission Fields

Edited by Rev. K. R. Jensen, Viborg, South Dakota

## DAN WITCH DOCTOR—STILL IN BUSINESS

By Mrs. Conrad Eastwold

One afternoon when both the doctor and the nurse were absent from the station here at Garoua Boulai, a young man, the son of a local witch doctor, was brought to the mission. He had a head wound that was bleeding profusely, and he was very weak from loss of blood. Mrs. Watne and I, with the help of the older missionary attending school here, were able to stop the bleeding profusely, and he was very weak from loss of blood. The native women started to pile dirt on the injured man's abdomen, "to stop the bleeding," as she explained. I had her take it off and then the patient's father was brought to employ another superstitious method for stopping the bleeding. He squeezed hard on the lower abdomen of the patient. We immediately stopped him also. All the patient's family and friends then sat and watched us as we finished dressing the wound. We then heard the story of how he had acquired his injury.

### "STRONG MEDICINE"

Earlier in the day while on his way to Garoua Boulai to visit his father, he met two men in another town. They were talking to a witch doctor who had given them the medicine the year before, which was supposed to make them invulnerable to any kind of attacks from the enemy. The medicine had been put into small cuts in the wrists. Now they wanted to see if the medicine they had received was still effective so they asked the witch doctor to hit them over their heads with a bottle, which he did. Neither one was hurt and the bottle didn't break. Our patient was quite impressed with this so he wanted to have some of the same medicine put in his arms, so that he, too, could be invulnerable to injury. Then he asked to have the bottle hit over his head. This time the bottle broke and severed an artery in his head. He was then brought to our mission, accompanied by a group of his relatives and friends.

### CHANCE TO REPORT

After he had regained some of his strength, Mrs. Watne talked with him. When asked if he had heard the word of God, he replied that he had attended services near the Word occasionally. Mrs. Watne reminded him that he had followed the work of Satan when he accepted the witch doctor's medicine. He was depending on Satan for his strength and not the Lord. She also said to him, "When you were so near death, perhaps the Lord let you live to give you a chance to repent of your sins and turn to Him completely." Four days he was ready to go home. We continue to pray that this man may turn to the Lord and be a witness for Him. We pray, too, that this incident may cause the hearts of his relatives and friends to be opened to the teachings of Christ and that they may turn away from their superstitious ways.

—The Missionary.

## IN CHRIST A NEW BEING

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia," is a song full of meaning for Mrs. Wang, who was baptized with twelve other adults and two children on Easter Day. Her story is encouraging.

### UNINTERESTED

"I was a Buddhist and uninterested in Christianity. I had seen many pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross, naked and bleeding. In our temples Buddha sits majestically on a throne clothed in scarlet silk trimmed with purple satin bedecked with gold. In contrast there was nothing about Jesus to make me desire to be a Christian. Why should I worship a weak, defeated criminal?"

"However, my six-year-old son was ill, and I had gone to the temples zealously and prayed fervently for him. He wore a charm around his neck all the time, but still he was weak and sickly. He began to get worse, so I took him to the doctor. Another child was being treated, and I could see that he was at the point of death. I inquired as to what disease he had. I was much alarmed when told that it was the same illness as my son had. I implored the doctor to save my child, but he could tell me nothing more comforting than to continue giving him the prescribed medicine. The poor child had already had so many injections that his thighs were nothing but a mass of needle-pricks—and he screamed every time another injection had to be made.

### THEY PRAYED

"I loved my child dearly and was heart-sick over his weak condition. On my way home, I met a neighbor, an old Christian, Mrs. Hsiao, who had urged me to attend the women's meetings many times. She inquired about my child, and when I told her the distressing news, she urged me to attend a Christian meeting that was to be held that very afternoon. In spite of my son's weak condition, I took him there on my bicycle and he was prayed for. The next day he was greatly improved, and I acknowledged that it was God who healed him.

"I became somewhat interested in church, but I had an obsession for gambling. I had begun playing Mah Jong when I was about ten for my father was an inveterate gambler. After I married my husband urged me to stop, but I told him I could stop eating, but I could not stop gambling. We often quarrelled and were most unhappy, because I had a fiery temper. Whenever he scolded me for neglecting the children because of my gambling, I would fly into a rage and throw cups and bowls off the table and smash them into the floor.

"He often urged Mrs. Hsiao to continue to urge and exhort me to become a Christian, because he had heard when people became Christian their tempers improved. After some months I began to attend church regularly, but I continued to gamble.

(Continued on page 15)



# "The Use of Activities in the Confirmation Learning Experience"

By Robert O. Berthelsen

The title of this report indicates the subject which was considered by the sub-committee of which I was a member at the Lutheran Intersynodical Seminar on Confirmation Instruction. Dr. Paul M. Lindberg, of Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois was chairman of the sub-committee.

Some guiding principles must be set forth before one can discuss the implication of activities in the Confirmation learning process and proceed to suggest activities for more effective confirmation learning. Such principles include:

1. Teaching is best understood as guidance in the learning process.
2. Learning is dynamic and functional rather than formal.
3. Learning must be understood in the perspective of the unity of life.
4. Christian learning and faith are in the totality of personality.

If the above are accepted, then the use of activities in religious education is supported by the commonly accepted principle that there are at least five factors involved in the learning experience.

1. **Instruction**—by which the specific content to be learned is communicated to the pupil.
2. **Fellowship**—in which the pupil becomes a member of an interactively learning community where the truth to be learned is experienced in mutuality to the increase of learning for the individual.
3. **Example**—by which the instructor specifically, as well as other adults and companions, testify in living evidence of the truth to be learned; and in which the pupil becomes an observer and imitator of truth in action, in addition to being a listener to verbalized truth.
4. **Worship**—in which the learner, through the interaction of worship, experiences the presence of God and responds to His presence; thus the learner enters into a first hand experience of the truth otherwise objectively taught.
5. **Service**—through which the pupil learns by doing, and grows to a living and deepening grasp of the truth.

At this point it is well to insert a reminder of the point of view of Christian education. Perhaps it can be summarized briefly under three points.

1. Christian education views learning as a complex of inner and outward activities by which one grows in the total life.
2. From the Christian point of view, education embraces all activities, inward and outward by which one grows in the Christian faith and life.
3. Christian education holds that it is God who works in man, that he may repent, believe, be reborn and grow in sanctification.

In general, confirmation instruction aims to train the individual for his personal life of faith and to prepare him for active participation in the full life and work of the mature congregation. Each area of the curriculum should be carefully examined as to its implication in the Christian experience, and suitable activities included to enable the pupil to participate in the truth of the content being taught.

It was the task of our committee, therefore, to make a list of the suggested activities for more effective confirmation learning. In the light of our discussion it came to the conclusion that increased attention needs to be given to the use of activities in learning in the preparation of future materials for use in our Confirmation classes, and that practical suggestions should be conveyed to our parish pastors now for incorporation into present courses of study.

Our list is too long to include in this brief report. I can merely share with you the various types suggested. A complete report will reach you later on.

## 1. Seeing and Hearing Activities

2. Oral Activities
3. Writing and Drawing Activities
4. Mental Activities
5. Fellowship Activities
6. Project Activities
7. Worship Activities
8. Service Projects

In conclusion may I share an experience I had with one of my confirmation classes. Near the end of the confirmation instruction we planned together a field trip during which we visited the Lutheran Student House at the University of Wisconsin, the Martin Luther Children's Home and the Skaalen Home for the Aged at Stoughton, Wisconsin in addition to a number of churches of different denominations. I cannot possibly list all of the benefits of this little field trip. They saw their church at work; they viewed love in action and our closing sessions in the class room, there were constant references to experiences from this field trip. This was one way in which I was confronted with the need and the value of this type of Activity in the Confirmation Learning Experience.

One important truth hit hard at this conference. It was just this. To whom is the Christ-centered message to be oriented in the confirmation learning experience? We're aiming at the pupil, are we not? Is it not true that too often we've gone into the confirmation class room with a Christ-centered message to be sure, but with one that was not oriented to the child? It is my conviction that the proper selection and use of Activities on the pupil side of the learning process will be of tremendous value in preparing our confirmands for a personal life of faith and full participation in the life and work of the congregation and church at large.



## NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

**The 59th Annual Convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church** will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3801 Cortland Street, Lynwood, California, June 21-26 beginning with the opening services Tuesday, June 21 at 8:00 PM. **Our Convention theme is: "Strong in the Lord."** All congregations are urged to send delegates, one delegate for each fifty members twenty-one years and over, a major fraction thereof. Delegates will please have credential blanks filled out, bring to the convention, and give to the Credentials Committee. All matters which require Convention action should be in the hands of the church Council by June 1st. See below for further information from the host congregation. May God pour out His rich blessing upon our 59th Convention. Pray for our Convention.

Hans C. Jersild, President  
Lawrence Siersbeck, Secretary

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lynwood, California, extends to all delegates and members of the U.E.L.C. a cordial welcome to attend the 59th Annual Convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church to be held June 21-26, 1955. All registrations should be sent to Mr. Frank Herstine in care of the church, 3801 Cortland St., Lynwood.

Allan D. Hansen, Pastor  
Mr. Frank Herstine, Registrar  
%St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
3801 Cortland Street  
Lynwood, California

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The North Dakota-Montana District convention will be held June 9th to 12th in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Kenmare, North Dakota, the Rev. Elias Larsen, Pastor. "Forward with Christ" is the Convention theme. All congregations are urged to send full delegations, one delegate for each twenty-five confirmed members and a fraction thereof. The District Treasurer's books will close June 3rd.

Edwin W. Petrusson  
District President  
N. Dak.-Mont. Dist.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Rt. 1, Kenmare, extends a cordial invitation to the delegates and members of the congregations of the North Dakota-Montana District to be its guests during the District Convention, June 9th-12th. Lodging and breakfast will be provided for the delegates and guests in the homes. Please send your reservations for lodging to the convention secretary, Mrs. Alfred Nelson, Rt. 1, Kenmare, N. D.

Sincerely yours for a blessed con-

vention in Christ, and on behalf of the congregation.

J. B. Schou, President  
Mrs. J. B. Schou, Secretary

## W.M.S. NOTICE

The Women's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church will hold its annual convention in conjunction with the U.E.L.C. Convention at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lynwood, California, June 21-26.

Thursday, 9:30 A.M., Meeting of nominating Committee.  
Friday, 8:00 P.M., Mission Service Meeting

—(Speaker is Pastor Arnfeld Morck)—  
Saturday, 1:15 P.M., Annual Business Session

Saturday Evening, Fellowship Supper, (Speaker is Pastor Ernest Engskov.)

Signed:  
President, Jennie Hansen  
Rec. Sec'y., E. Irene Christiansen

**Selma, Calif.,** Pastor A. Husted-Christensen. Members of the confirmation class in April were Joan Gordon, Sharon Tobiasen, Gerald Lund, Dwight Nelson and Robert Jensen. They were honored at a reception by the Luther League on Sunday evening, May 1, when Mr. Melius Bollesen, a student at Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska, was the speaker.

The fifth annual Aebleskiver Fest sponsored by the Senior League of Pella church, was held on May 3 in the evening. More than five hundred people attended and the affair was an overwhelming success. Emil Rasmussen is president of the Senior League and Mrs. Arthur Jensen is its secretary-treasurer.

The Linnea Society entertained mothers and friends of its membership on the evening of May 10 with a party in the church social hall. Miss Vicki Madsen gave a reading, "To Mom," and Mrs. Clare Saylor sang "O Mother Mine." Rev. Christensen gave a devotion and Mr. Melius Bollesen was the speaker. His subject was "My Responsibility to My Church." Refreshments were served at tables arranged to form the letter "M" and decorated with branches of red roses and ivy.

## California W.M.S.

On Friday, April 29th, the Ladies Aid and Women's Missionary Society of Faith Lutheran Church of Castro Valley, California were hostess to the Annual Bay Area Circuit Meeting. Women from the following churches were in attendance—Elim Lutheran Church of Petaluma, Calif.; Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Ferndale, Calif.; Ansgar Lutheran Church of

San Francisco, Calif.; and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Oakland. There were 106 women present and four pastors, namely Rev. Spener Peterson, Rev. Clifford Paulsen, Rev. Milton Petersen and Rev. H. M. Hansen.

The morning session was led by Mrs. Gertrude Loeffert, President of Faith Lutheran Church Ladies Aid and words of welcome were expressed by her. This was followed with a "Singspiration." Devotions were given by Rev. H. M. Hansen. Luncheon was served at 12 o'clock.

A brief business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Lillian Hansen. It was decided to send \$25.00 of the offering to the Sudan Hospital in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson who served as Missionary in Sudan and to give the remaining \$70.00 to Lutheran World Action.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, President of the Faith Lutheran Church Women's Missionary Society, presided over the afternoon session. A program rich in inspiration and promise opened with devotion and prayer by Mrs. Carol Miller, followed by a vocal solo "Look, Spere of Endless Days" by Mrs. Marilyn Brewster. A reading "The Three Bitters" was offered by Mrs. Ruth Wildrick. A duet "The Altar of Prayer" was given by Mrs. Lillian Hansen and Mrs. Lilly Olson. An impressive message "Operation Need" was given by Rev. Kenneth Senft of Redwood City who spoke from first hand knowledge having worked in Germany among the people who desperately need our help in Germany as well as when they come to America as refugees. Rev. H. M. Hansen closed the meeting with prayer.

**Eugene, Oregon,** Emmaus Lutheran Church, Rev. H. A. Svendsen, pastor.

Palm Sunday evening, the Emmaus Lutheran Church Choir gave their Easter Cantata, THE EXALTED CHRIST, under the direction of Mrs. Harold Andersen, choir director and organist.

April 9th, funeral services were held for Andrew Holtan at the Emmaus Lutheran Church. Andrew Holtan was born in Norway on July 12, 1873 and passed away on April 7, 1955. He came to South Dakota at the age of ten years old. He has lived in Eugene and vicinity since 1921. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, and a sister, Mrs. Dora Stee of Florence, South Dakota. He was preceded in death by his only child, a son, Haakon. Rev. H. A. Svendsen gave the funeral sermon using the text, the 23rd Psalm. Carsten Woll sang two Norwegian songs, "Den Store Hvide Flok" and "O, Tænk Naar Engang Samles Skal"

(Continued on page 13)



# THE LUTHER LEAGUE

Homer Larsen, Editor

Sermon prepared by Pastor Norlan L. Hanson for Youth Sunday, for Our Savior's and Trinity Lutheran congregations in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie—presented after two of the young people from each congregation had given short meditations on the same theme: "More Than Conquerors!"

## "MORE THAN CONQUERORS"

Romans 8:31-39

Dear hearers of the Word of God; young people, parents and friends: Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

I'm sure you will join with me in saying: "Thanks be to God, for the youth of our Church who can stand before the people of their congregation and give a testimony for Christ like we have heard today." It gives us a deep sense of gratitude when our young people will witness for Christ by taking part in this kind of a service on Youth Sunday.

There are many in our country today who are worried about the young people. We hear a lot about the troubles caused by teen-agers. We read about them in the newspapers, hear about them on the radio, and see things on TV which may cause us to shake our heads and sigh: "What are the youth of our day going to do next! They go on wild drunk parties, smash themselves up in car accidents, and get involved in all kinds of difficulties. Some parents complain that they just don't have any control over their children anymore. They don't understand their sons and daughters, and they aren't able to make themselves understood. And these problems are not found only among the unchurched. Pastors sometimes confess that the work of the Luther League is one of their biggest headaches, and heart-aches.

If you didn't know better, you would almost think the world revolved around the teen-agers, considering the amount of attention they seem to get.

We need to be reminded, perhaps, that teen-agers do not make the world go around. God still controls the universe, including this little planet on which we live. Even though parents and pastors may become discouraged or disappointed with the youth of today, God never gets discouraged. Oh, I'm sure He is disappointed by some of our young people. It hurts God to see them do things which they know are sinful and harmful. But the youth of today need to be reminded that God loves them no matter what they do. He may not love what they do, but He loves them. He loves them because Christ died for them. He loves them and He cares about them, even as He cares for everyone. "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all," never stops loving us.

God knows the temptations and the difficulties which the youth of today are facing. He knew what the world was like when He sent His only Son to live here too. From the very beginning of time, God knew that men would reject His Son. Centuries before Jesus was born, God revealed to His prophets how men would scoff at their Savior. He revealed how His own people would put Christ to death. And yet, knowing what would take place, God did not spare His son, but He gave Him up for us—for you—the young people of this generation, for the youth of every age. Our God can supply every need, and everything we need.

On the basis of the Word of God, I think the youth of today need to be assured that God is able to keep

them faithful to Himself. "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also give us all things with Him?" Parents of teen-agers need to be reminded that God is able to keep their sons and daughters faithful to Himself. He can make them More Than Conquerors—but we must also be willing to do our part.

In spite of difficulties and discouragements, the Christian youth movement of today is by far the greatest youth movement America has ever seen. Throughout our land there are more active young people, more adult counselors, more Bible Campers, more teen-agers attending Leadership School and more Mission projects being carried on by our Luther Leagues than ever before. There are problems, we need not deny that. But that just makes us see how important the work among the youth really is. Working among the youth is so important for the future of the Church that the devil makes some of his greatest efforts to snatch young people away from Christ. But, when the devil increases his efforts, our opportunities and our responsibilities also increase. We dare not fail our Lord—we dare not fail our youth. God wants them to be more than conquerors—not conquerors only—but more than conquerors in Christ.

We who claim to be members of the body of Christ on earth must help the youth of today experience the reality of being more than conquerors in Christ.

We must realize that it is not easy to be a Christian in the high schools of America today. Some have gone



far as to say that some high schools are 'dens of the devil.' The devil has some of his most effective workers among the youth. You never know that it isn't easy to be a Christian in the average factory, or garage, or business in America today either. It may be fashionable to go to church on Sunday, to witness for your faith on Saturday night, or on Monday and Tuesday at your work, is not so easy. It isn't easy for the disciples in Jerusalem. It isn't easy to be a Christian in Communist China or East Germany either. The call to be a Christian was never made with the promise that it would make life easy. The call to be a Christian only promises that you will be entering a life-long struggle. It takes courage to be a Christian in 1955, just as much as it did in the year 100 or the year 200. If you think it's a snap to be a Christian, you haven't seen the Cross. If your main goal in life is to make some easy money, then you haven't heard the call of Christ. If you think life is giving you a tough deal and you resent having to struggle against sin and temptation all your life, you haven't seen anything yet. God wants people, young and old, and he has no time to feel sorry for himself because they are so busy trying to help those who have never met Jesus Christ.

If you think the world owes you a living, you may be able to get it—but you will have to close your ears to the call of Christ. He wants people, young and old, who are ready to give Him their life. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself." But that isn't all. When you follow Christ you also get a cross. When you offer Him your life, He gives you a cross. But He also promises that if you remain faithful He will give you a crown. After the cross comes the crown; the crown of life with Him in everlasting glory.

We don't earn the crown because we have been willing to carry a cross—but He promises the crown as a reward to those who are more than conquerors in Him.

You can be more than a conqueror in Christ. The primary purpose of the Church's youth program is to lead young people into a closer walk with Christ. We believe we become God's children in baptism. Our relationship with Christ is made more meaningful through the instruction of Sunday School and confirmation. Our Luther League meetings, Bible Camps, conventions, Leadership Schools and our regular worship services all have this main objective: to help young people grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Will you help to make this goal a reality? You can. You can, if you will pray. Parents, pray for, and pray **with** your young people. Young people, pray for your parents, for your Luther League, your friends, and pray for yourself. People of our congregation, you too have a part in this prayer fellowship. The young people of our congregation are your responsibility too. Pray that every League meeting will be a place where youth will meet the Master, face to face.

You can also help by your witness. Your life; the things you do, and the things you don't do can be a testimony to others that you are a conqueror with Christ. The way you talk; the things you say and the words you don't say can be a witness of your faith in Christ. The invitation you give to some young person, the encouragement you give as an interested friend, a reminder about the concern of fellow members of the congregation may be just the thing that is needed to bring some young person to a stronger conviction of faith.

You can help, if you love. Show your love for Christ. Parents, be

sure your sons and daughters know you love them. Young people, remember to tell your parents that you love them. "Love one another." The outstanding characteristic of Christians is their mutual love and concern, and their love for all people. Someone once said, "I've never met a man I couldn't love." That's what Christ can do to you. You may not like what some people do, nor need you like what some people are—but you can still love them. Love them for the sake of Christ, for what they can become, for what they can do as a soldier for Christ.

In one of the Scottish wars against England, a few men were needed for a particularly dangerous duty. The general lined the men up and explained the danger of the mission. Then he asked anyone who would volunteer for this mission to take one step forward. He turned his back so the men wouldn't be influenced by his glances. When he turned around again not a man stood out in front of the line. The old general began to get angry and shouted, "Is there not one man here who loves Scotland enough to risk his life for her?" Then one of the officers replied, "Sir, every man has taken the forward step."

Jesus Christ invites you who have joined the ranks of the Kingdom-army, to decide whether or not you are willing to risk your life for the cause of the Kingdom. Every person, young and old, needs to take the step which shows that he will volunteer for special service. The promise stands: You shall be "more than Conquerors in Christ" who loves you with an everlasting love. Love is greater than life itself. Are you ready and willing to give up the love of life for the life of love? When you do, you become one of those who can say confidently with Paul, "We are more than conquerors in Christ!"



## BY THE FIRESIDE

### MIDNIGHT MELTS INTO MORNING

By Oliver Everett

Midnight melts into morning,  
Darkness creeping from the dawn.  
Christ, a halo Him adorning,  
Bids my foolish fears be gone.

Christ is near me; Christ is in me;  
Christ sustains my fainting heart.  
Ever onward He doth draw me,  
Teaching me the servant's part.

Heart may faint and faith may falter,  
Yet He doth preserve my soul.  
Lord, this mortal at Thine altar  
Shall Thy bounteous grace extol.

### SILENT HARPS

Many harps are silent because their owners have set their hearts to do great things. They wish to play to modern Sauls—become great preachers, evangelists, or world-known teachers. They do not realize that David lulled his lambs to sleep, with the sweet strains of his harp, some time before he played to King Saul. And David found that it was far more pleasant to play to his sheep than to play in the presence of the King. Lambs do not throw javelins!

If you are looking for a place of service in God's kingdom, you can find that place easily. Accept the lowly tasks. David was called from his humble task, watching his sheep and playing to them, called to be anointed with oil, to be a king. God did not despise his simple task, however; neither will He despise yours.

Then, should the time come in the providence of God when you are called to play to kings (large audiences, great ministries, executive work), you will undoubtedly long for the former days. Simple tasks keep us in touch with God.

Why have a silent harp? The grandest, sweetest harp is the one that is playing for the glory of God. "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecc. 9:10).

—Arthur H. Townsend  
in the Alliance Weekly

### PETITION

Lord, choose for me—I do not dare!  
May I relinquish to Thy care  
The problems that beset my way,  
The tangled threads of every day.

Oh, give me wisdom, Lord, to see  
The things life has withheld from me  
Are for my spirit's gain, not loss,  
To keep me closer to Thy cross.

Lord, choose for me, and make my will  
Obedient to Thy own, until  
With strong assurance I shall know  
That Thou art always where I go.

—Clara Bernhardt

### ALSO, YOUR HITCHING POST

Long ago a young farmer who had frequented the village barroom was converted, but he continued to hitch his horse in front of the saloon. A deacon, noticing this, said, "George, I am much older than you are, and will be pardoned, I know, if I make a suggestion out of my wider experience. No matter how strong you think you are, take my advice and at once change your hitching-post." Sure enough, it would not be consistent to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," while going into the very jaws of temptation. We must co-operate in the answering of our prayers.

### GOD WITHIN US

To believe in the sun and not in the eye; to believe in the sweetness of the honey and not in the power of taste; to believe in the God over us and around us and not in the God within us—that would be a powerless and fruitless faith. But to believe in God the Son and God the Spirit too, in the divine capacity within us answering back to the divine offer around us; to believe in ourselves through the divine presence which we are capable of receiving and containing—that completes the faith of man.

—Phillips Brooks

### A PRAYER FOR COURAGE

Keep me from turning back;  
My hand is on the plow, my faltering hand,  
But still in front of me is untilled land,  
The wilderness and solitary place,  
The lonely desert and its interspace.  
What harvest have I? But this paltry grain,  
These dwindling husks, a handful of dry corn,  
These poor lean stalks? My courage is outworn;  
Keep me from turning back.  
The handles of my plow with tears are wet,  
The shares with rust are spoiled, and yet—and yet,  
My God! My God! Keep me from turning back.

### THE CALL OF THE CROSS

An old preacher was once heard preaching on a village green in England. He had lived on the American prairies, and his illustrations had a powerful fascination for my boyhood ears.

He told of a prairie fire, and he described the way in which the Indians saved their wigwams from the blaze by setting fire to the grass directly adjoining the settlement. "The fire cannot come," he cried, "where the fire has already been! That is why I call you to the Cross. Judgment has already fallen there, and can never come again. He who takes his stand at the cross is safe for evermore. He can never come into condemnation: he has passed from death unto life. He is in perfect peace within God's safety zone."

—Boreha

### SURPRISED

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.

—Mark Twain

Friend (to returned traveler): "Do you see much poverty in Europe?"

Traveler: "I not only saw it, but brought some of it back with me."

A little old lady listened attentively while the young priest preached a sermon on marriage. After the sermon, the little old lady murmured, "I wish I knew as little about it as you does."

"Mommy, can I go into the water?"

"Oh, no, honey, it's too deep."

"But Daddy is out there in the water."

"Yes, but he's big, dear, and he's insured."

An optimistic Kansas farmer, seeing some clouds floating by remarked: "Well, I guess we are going to have some rain."

"Aw!" said his pessimistic neighbor, an ex-railroad man, "those are just empties coming back from Illinois."



## WS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 9)

the "Lord's Prayer" was sung in fish. Many remember Carsten Woll concert singer and recording artist and that he has been on the music of St. Olaf College. Mr. and Mrs. Woll have made their home now Eugene, Oregon, where they both teaching music, Mr. Woll in voice Mrs. Woll in piano.

April 17th, the Emmaus Lutheran congregation had their pot luck supper 3:30. A program was given by the Scouts of Emmaus Lutheran church. This was the Second Court Honor for the Boy Scouts. The Scoutmaster, A. T. Moos, and Assistant Scoutmaster, M. P. (Chuck) Fortier each boy demonstrate the various accomplishments that they had learned these few weeks.

### Lutherans, Methodists

one of Great Britain's leading Methodist theologians believes there should be discussions between Lutherans and Methodists on Holy Communion.

This opinion is expressed by Professor Gordon Rupp, church historian of Cambridge and a noted scholar in Lutheran research, in an article, "Luther in English Theology," which is being published in the spring issue of the Lutheran World, a quarterly sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation.

"I hope," writes Dr. Rupp, "the contemporary phobia of Lutheran scholars about Pietism and all its works... will prevent careful consideration of the teaching of the great Reformer the great apostle of 18th century England with a view to exploring agreement and difference in an ecumenical and irenic spirit."

Dr. Rupp goes on to say that "the characteristic teaching of John and Charles Wesley and of Charles Wesley's hymns... has a doctrine of the characteristic sacrifice which is perhaps right-wing for Lutheranism." But he adds that it is "the one place English theological development part from High Anglican eucharistic doctrine) where English Protestant eucharistic doctrine breaks from Calvinistic, Buceran, Bullingerian tradition and approaches that of Lutheranism."

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"And it is significant," he says "at a time when Methodists are becoming much more liturgically and theologically conscious about the value and meaning of Charles Wesley's hymns. Here there is a fruitful field for ecumenical conversation and for exploring problems of inter-communion."

The new number of the Lutheran World also contains several contributions on the contemporary church scene, including a study on "Freedom and Unity in the New Testament" by Prof. Bo Reicke of Basel, a report on the situation of the church in Indonesia, and descriptions of church life in Finland, Poland and Rumania by Erkki Niinivaara, Bishop Jan Kotula and Bishop Friedrich Muller respectively.

The spring issue of the "Lutheran World," the first number of its second year of publication, appeared on May 15.

### Religious Center Dedicated at M.I.T.

Cambridge, Mass.—A \$2,000,000 campus religious center was dedicated at Massachusetts Institution of Technology here, one of America's leading engineering schools.

Shortly after the dedication ceremonies, William Speer, associate dean of students at M.I.T., disclosed that the school may shortly offer its first course in religion.

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Students have expressed a desire for such a course, he said, and when it is offered it "probably will center about a history of religious thought, comparative religions or the philosophy of religion."

The new religious center, made possible by a \$1,500,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, is expected to be completed within a few months. The parts presented to the school at the dedication ceremony were a windowless chapel built in the shape of a brick cylinder and an auditorium with a triangular domed roof designed by the noted Finnish-born architect, Eino Saarinen.

The chapel, which will be used by Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews, stands in a water-filled moat. Irregular shaped arches are cut into the bottom of the cylinder at the water line. By day, a circular glass ceiling port and light reflected through the arches from the moat illuminate the building's interior.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Child- ren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Pe- rio- dic Fu
Audubon, Ia., Danish Ladies Aid of Our Savior's Luth. Church, a Thank Offering for God's blessings during the past 50 years	50.00		25.00		25.00			
McNabb, Ill., Mrs. Laura Morgensen and Mrs. Marjoria Grossen of Emmaus Church	3.00				3.00			
Farmington, Minn., Farmington Ladies Aid in memory of Mrs. Mary Olsen	3.00				3.00			
Fresno, Calif., Grace Luth. Guild in memory of Peter Nilmeyer and C. O. Norell	5.00				5.00			
Minneapolis, Minn., Luth. Bible School for Rev. A. R. Petersen	8.33							
Poy Sippi, Wis., First Luth. Church	24.40		12.20		12.20			
Blooming Prairie, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	100.00		50.00		50.00			
Eugene, Ore., Mrs. Karen Larsen of Bethesda Church	10.00							10
Waupaca, Wis., Estate of Anna B. Peterson	1727.30				863.65	863.65		
Westby, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. Lennert Hansen	7.20				7.20			
Ord, Nebr., Pastor and Mrs. C. Jeppesen in memory of George Mortensen	2.00							
Brush, Colo., All Saints Church	25.00				25.00			
Dolliver, Ia., Dolliver Luth. Church	210.00		105.00		50.00			50
Castro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. Church	147.61		47.61	50.00	50.00			
Norwalk, Calif., Trinity Luth. Church	34.23			34.23				
Norwalk, Calif., Trinity Luth. Church	300.00		150.00		150.00			
Brush, Colo., All Saints Church	13.83				13.83			
Bone Lake, Wis., St. Paul's Luth. Church	11.00		5.50		5.50			
Clifton, Ill., Luth. Ladies Aid in memory of Peter Madsen	15.00							15
Omaha, Nebr., Mrs. Anna Hansen in memory of Mrs. Marie Henriksen, Del Rey, Calif., Mrs. Margrethe Johnson, Wheatland, Wyo., Mr. John Larsen, Hampton, Nebr.	5.00				5.00			
Falmouth, Me., Mr. and Mrs. Fred Endicott in memory of Maurice Sweet	5.00				5.00			
Racine, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	668.00		668.00					
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Church	33.56				33.56			
Washington County Bank, exchange on Canadian check	11.20				11.20			
Sidney, Mont., Chris Jorgensen in memory of N. H. Nelson	5.00				5.00			
Avoca, Ia., English Luth. S. S.	16.33						16.33	
Omaha, Nebr., Pella Luth. S. S. Easter offering	83.40					83.40		
Milltown, Wis., Milltown Luth. S. S., a mission offering	41.60				41.60			
Boston, Mass., the Acacia Club	8.00							8
Kenmare, N. D., Nazareth Luth. S. S.	131.42	31.42	40.00	30.00	30.00			
Castro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. S. S.	42.45					42.45		
Greenville, Mich., the Friendly Mission Circle	5.00				5.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3752.86</b>	<b>31.42</b>	<b>1103.31</b>	<b>114.23</b>	<b>1399.74</b>	<b>989.50</b>	<b>16.33</b>	<b>98</b>

## SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	L.W.A. Mission	Gen. L Forei Missio
<b>Budget for 1954-1955</b>	<b>10708.63</b>	<b>16000.00</b>	<b>15500.00</b>	<b>10000.00</b>	<b>15000.00</b>			<b>40815.00</b>	<b>10708.63</b>
Previously acknowledged	5.00							5.00	
Cushing, Nebr., St. John's Luth. Church	100.00				100.00				
Albert Lea, Minn., the Danish Sudan Circle in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson for the Hospital Building in Numan	15.00							15.00	
Milwaukee, Wis., Kingo Luth. Church	3.10							3.10	
Poy Sippi, Wis., First Luth. Church	4.00	4.00							
Pasadena, Calif., Bethany Women's Guild for Japanese Luth. Bible Institute	1727.29	863.65						863.64	
Waupaca, Wis., Estate of Anna B. Peterson	40.00				40.00				
Brooklyn, Wis., Brooklyn Luth. S. S. for support and schooling of "Tafido" in the Sudan Girls' School	24.72							24.72	
Northgate, Dak., Northgate Community Luth. Church \$19.72, Thorsten Gagnom \$5.00	28.27	14.00		14.27					
Owatonna, Minn., Our Savior's S. S.	100.00	50.00			50.00				
From a Friend	5.00							5.00	
Pfc. Erland L. Tanderup, Far East War Department	10.00		10.00						
Greenville, Mich., the Women's Missionary Society	22.62				22.62				
Royal, Ia., Bethlehem Ladies Aid in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson	35.50							35.50	
Norwalk, Calif., Trinity Luth. Church	10.00				10.00				
Minden, Nebr., Fredericksburg Ladies Aid for Margaret Nissen's work	10.00				10.00				
Chicago, Ill., Golgotha W.M.S. in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson	10.00				10.00				
Rolfe, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Church	200.00							200.00	
Jacksonville, Ia., Circuit Rally	101.51		101.51						
Shelby, Ia., Circuit Rally	47.97		47.97						
Sidney, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rasmussen in memory of Mrs. Peter Andersen	5.00							5.00	
Sidney, Mont., J. O. Rasmussen \$5 in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson, \$2.50 in memory of N. H. Nielsen	7.50				7.50				
Owatonna, Minn., Our Savior's Luth. Church	394.50							394.50	
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dannebrog Luth. Church	13.10							13.10	
Chicago, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Ingvar Landbo for translation work by Rev. Morck, in memory of Thorvald Jacobsen, Hayward, Calif.	5.00		5.00						
Cordova, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church	52.00							52.00	
Fresno, Calif., Bethel Luth. S. S.	15.25							15.25	
The Pacific District W.M.S., Special Project: building a new Hospital Addition in Lamurde, Sudan	1000.00				1000.00				
The W.M.S. Central District meeting held April 29th at Castro Valley, Calif., L.W.A. \$71. in memory of Rev. Alfred Thompson to the new Hospital addition \$25	96.00				25.00			71.00	
Elk Horn, Ia., in memory of Ed Mardesen for Parkijull from relatives and friends	54.00			54.00					
Audubon, Ia., in memory of Arnold Petersen for Parkijull from relatives and friends	5.00			5.00					
Luck, Wis., the Luck S. S.	32.42			32.42					
Kenosha, Wis., the W.M.S. of St. Mary's Luth. Church, for Mr. Biswas salary 3 months \$43.20, for a Hospital worker 3 months in the Sudan Mission	68.20			43.20	25.00				
Spencer, Ia., Bethany S. S.	10.46							10.46	
Caruthers, Calif., Mrs. L. Hammond	20.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00				
Fresno, Calif., Mrs. Marie K. Jensen \$10 in memory of her husband and \$10 in memory of her mother	20.00	10.00	10.00						
Racine, Wis., in memory of Nettie Lamp of Emmaus Luth. Church from a group of friends	12.00				12.00				
N. Hollywood, Calif., Valley Luth. Church	258.02								
Neola, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. S. S., a mission offering	7.28	7.28						258.02	
Sidney, Mont., in memory of Nels Hansen Nelson: Mrs. Maren Nielsen, Los Angeles, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Legerton, Glendale, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Brown, Glendale, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Sorensen, Minot, N. D., \$25, Rhodena and Ernest Jensen, Kenmare, N. D., \$2, Robert and Gladys Larsen, Sidney, Mont. \$1	28.00				28.00				



sonville, Ia., Pastor and Mrs. H. Irving Petersen in memory of Max H. Misfeld, Billings, Mont.	5.00		5.00						
mare, N. D., Nels Mugaas in memory of Margreta Mugaas.	10.00	10.00							
hinson, Minn., Junior Mission Society	10.00	10.00							
on, Mass., the Acacia Club	12.00	6.00	6.00						
Membership for Mrs. Martin Christensen of Fredricksburg									
Ladies Aid, Minden, Nebr.	6.75	6.75							
ro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. S. S. for the Tudu Santal Mission	50.00		50.00						
sonville, Mich., the Friendly Mission Circle	15.00	5.00	5.00	5.00					
TOTAL	15411.09	965.68	205.48	219.89	1340.12			12679.92	

ived with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., May 21, 1955.

H. J. Hansen, Treas.

BOOK REVIEWS

**Rivers to the Sea** by Irene Strommen. Augsburg Publ. House, 266 pages, \$3.50.

From a Scandinavian background of love for prairies, beauties of nature, Christian fellowship, and an interest in youth, Irene Huglen Strommen writes about that which is most familiar to her in the book, "Rivers to the Sea."

Young adults, descendants of close friends from Norway, find themselves amid all the pleasures and problems of attending a Christian college.

What is faith? What is real love? What am I doing for others? These questions rise to face young Mary Anne Kristensen as she proceeds to work her way through college and to a greater understanding of faith and development of character and charity.

A book which faces the conflicting ideas of fun and faith, personal pleasure and problems, love and loyalty in "Rivers to the Sea"—a book appealing especially to young men which will surely become a friend.

Mrs. Mark Thomsen

**Live By Faith** by Ruby Lornell. Muhlenberg Press, 128 pages, \$2.00.

The book before us is a layman's guide to Christian beliefs. It is divided into two parts: The Christian faith and the new life in Christ. I am at present instructing a confirmation class of adults and I have found the book stimulating. It helps me to think about the Christian faith in the practical aspects of life. It discusses such things as: Can we live by faith, and Why the cross, and how does God work, and also Do Christians die? When it comes to the new life in Christ, it discusses the basic tensions in life, the personal problems, economics and the will of God, and such an intriguing subject as Take

the offensive, as well as The Christian Certainty. I am sure that the book will be welcomed by both pastors and lay people; lay people especially will find it stimulating and helpful.

—J.M.J.

**Preaching on Bible Characters** by Faris D. Whitesell. Baker Book House, 150 pages, \$2.50.

This is a book for pastors who like to preach on Bible characters. Preaching of that sort is sometimes very stimulating both to the congregation and to the preacher. The book describes the method and the success of some of the great Bible character preachers. It also speaks of the advantages of the Bible character sermons. It gives suggestions as to how to make such a sermon as well as a number of splendid short outlines. In the last chapter it has about 300 names of such Bible character sermons. I think that the pastor who thinks much about how to present the gospel will find this book very helpful.

—J.M.J.

**Notes for Addresses at Funeral Occasions** by William P. Van Wyk, Baker Book House, 140 pages, \$2.00.

This little book contains thirty-six funeral sermons and outlines. A young pastor who is thinking a great deal about his funeral addresses will no doubt find this little book extremely helpful.

**Hinges of Destiny** by Ralph W. Loew. Muhlenberg Press, 175 pages, \$2.75.

This is a book of 17 sermons by a well-known Lutheran pastor. The sermons are Biblical and yet they are very direct and personal, leading us into life as it is. The questions and tensions before us must be solved and the author helps us to solve them with Christ.

—J.M.J.

NOW I KNOW

(Continued from page 7)

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come this bondage. Now when my old friends invite me to gamble I tell them: 'The Mrs. Wang who enjoyed gambling is dead. This new Mrs. Wang, that you see now, doesn't care for gambling.'

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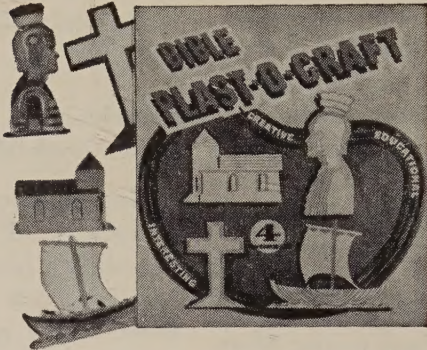
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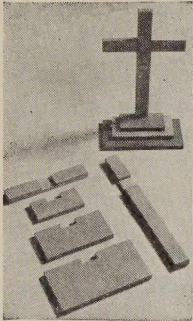
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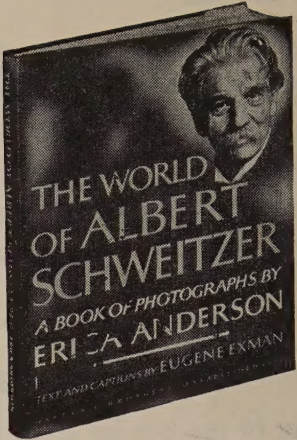


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